

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-06 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

INT-05 FEA-01 /106 W

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R 291715Z APR 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8773

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 609

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EC/IRAN --UPDATE

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 2428 B. EC BRUSSELS 1293 C. EC BRUSSELS 1199

D. MCCARTHY/LUCY TELECON, APRIL 24, 1975

1. IN REFTEL A THE MISSION REPORTED THAT EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES WILL VISIT CHINA MAY 4-10. ON HIS RETURN FROM PEKING, SOAMES WILL STOP IN TEHRAN TO DISCUSS EC/IRAN RELATIONS. SOAMES IS EXPECTED TO MEET WITH MINISTER ANSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EC COUNCIL'S (FOREIGN MINISTERS, FEB. 10, REF C) INSTRUCTIONS TO THE COMMISSION TO GET A READING ON IRANIAN INTENTIONS REGARDING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM COMMISSION CONTACTS THAT THE TEHRAN VISIT WILL PERMIT SOAMES TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR SUBSEQUENT EXPLORATORY TALKS BETWEEN THE EC AND IRAN EXPECTED THIS SUMMER IN BRUSSELS. (AT LEAST

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ONE AND PROBABLY TWO ROUNDS OF SUCH TALKS ARE THOUGHT

NECESSARY BEFORE ANY ACTION COULD BE TAKEN TOWARDS A COMMISSION REQUEST FOR A NEGOTIATING MANDATE.) IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT, SOAMES TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD ON APRIL 27 THAT HE HOPES TO CONVINCE THE IRANIANS NOT REPEAT NOT TO PRESS FOR A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. HE WASNT TO SELL THEM A FORMULA WHICH COMBINES INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH A TRADE REGIME BASED ON MFN PLUS ANY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EC'S GENERALIZED PREFERENCES SYSTEM THAT COULD BENEFIT IRAN.

3. MISSION CONTACTS IN DG-1 STRESS THAT THE SOAMES MISSION IS A PRELIMINARY "SOUNDING -OUT " OF IRANIAN DESIRES AND THAT THE COMMISSION'S POSITION AGAINST A PREFERENTIAL "MEDITERRANEAN-TYPE" AGREEMENT CONTINUES STRONG. SO FAR AS THE COMMISSION STAFF KNOWS, MEMBER STATE VIEWS APPARENTLY REMAIN THE SAME AS LAST REPORTED, I.E. DENMARK AND FRANCE IN FAVOR OF A BROAD PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT, GERMANY STILL CONSIDERING SPECIAL PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, WHILE ITALY AND BRITAIN ARGUE AGAINST THE PREFERENTIAL APPROACH. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER MEMBER STATE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE SINCE THE REPORT IN REFTEL C. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVITATIONS, JOURNALISTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU03828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0749
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975044/aaaaadsitel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 EC BRUSSELS 2428, 75 EC BRUSSELS 1293, 75 EC BRUSSELS 1199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/IRAN --UPDATE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, IR, EEC, (SOAMES, CHRISTOPHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006